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**INFORMATION ONLY**

NSC BRIEFING

6 April 1954

POLITICAL MOTIVATION FOR FRENCH REQUEST FOR  
NAVAL AIR SUPPORT

I. New phase in French position on inter-  
vention

A. Charge of Chinese intervention not  
made by French before 4 April request  
though obviously known for months.

B. Dien Bien Phu has apparently con-  
vinced French drastic steps necessary  
to ensure Geneva position.

1. French now recognize permanent  
loss of privileged position in  
Indochina.

2. Alternatives if Geneva fails:

a. A Dunkirk -- militarily  
infeasible

b. Negotiations with a  
strong EC

c. US intervention -- slow

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and uncertain.

d. American intervention

3. Dien Bien Phu and imminence

of Geneva counterbalance fear of  
provoking Chinese attacks.

II. If US rejects request:

A. France would be freer at Geneva  
to make concessions -- EDC as well as  
Indochina

B. France could better press for US  
concessions at Geneva.

III. If US is involved militarily:

A. US position then same as on Korean  
truce talks.

B. French public more amenable to war.

C. France could turn operation over  
to US if conference failed.

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